

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 SIG-03 EB-08 L-03
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R 312123Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192743

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, UK

SUBJECT: ARAB BOYCOTT: HOUSE OF LORDS SELECT COMMITTEE

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REF: (A) STATE 164734 (NOTAL), (B) LONDON 8930 (NOTAL),
(C) STATE 124709 (NOTAL), (D) STATE 168024,
(E) STATE A-2630

1. FINANCIAL TIMES CARRIED AN ARTICLE BY MAURICE SAMUELSON
ON JULY 21, UNDER HEADLINE QUOTE US BARS ARAB DATA FOR
LORDS INQUIRY UNQUOTE. ARTICLE STATES, INTER ALIA,

THAT QUOTE US GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED TO SUPPLY KEY EVIDENCE TO A HOUSE OF LORDS SELECT COMMITTEE ABOUT THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF RECENT US LEGISLATION AIMED AT CURTAILING THE ARAB BOYCOTT UNQUOTE.

2. COMMERCE AND STATE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE INACCURATE PICTURE DRAWN BY SAMUELSON INDICATING THAT WE HAVE BEEN LESS FORTHCOMING THAN WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN OR THAT WE POSSESS INFORMATION WHICH WE ARE NOT SHARING. INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US WAS CONTAINED IN STATE 124709 AND 164734. AS EMBASSY NOTED IN LONDON 8930, THE POUCHED MATERIALS WERE DELIVERED TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE, AND THE COMMITTEE APPARENTLY DECIDED NOT TO EXTEND A FORMAL INVITATION TO A USG OFFICIAL TO GIVE ORAL TESTIMONY. WE

ERE NOT AND ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY DISPLEASURE ON THE PART OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE AND FIND SAMUELSON'S REFERENCE TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE'S REITERATION OF ITS DESIRE FOR COMMENT FROM DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF

COMMERCE MARCUSS SURPRISING. WE ARE LIKEWISE UNAWARE THAT "AT LEAST TWO REQUESTS WERE MADE FOR EVIDENCE FROM THE US COMMERCE DEPARTMENT" AS REPORTED BY MR. SAMUELSON IN A JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY DISPATCH DATED JULY 20 AND HEADLINED QUOTE ANTIBOYCOTT BILL WEAKENED AFTER AMERICANS REFUSE TO TESTIFY UNQUOTE.
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3. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO RAISE SAMUELSON ARTICLES WITH APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVE OF SELECT COMMITTEE, NOTING THAT WE ASSUME SAMUELSON ARTICLES DO NOT REFLECT VIEWS HELD BY COMMITTEE. EMBASSY MAY ALSO WISH TO SHARE WITH COMMITTEE COPIES OF COMMERCE DEPARTMENT'S SUMMARY OF NEW ANTI-BOYCOTT REPORTING REGULATIONS (STATE 168024 AND THE REGULATIONS AS PUBLISHED IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER ON JULY 5 (STATE A-2630).
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